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Letter dated 16 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith (see annex) a copy of the statement delivered by the President of the Republic of the Sudan, H.E. Omar Hassan al-Bashir, at the joint meeting with the President of the Republic of South Sudan, H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit in Juba on 12 April 2013. At the outset President Al-Bashir stated that the signing of the integrated matrix for the implementation of the cooperation agreements of 27 September 2012 paved the ground for his visit, and he described the implementation of the matrix as encouraging and called for optimism.

President Al-Bashir also underlined that the resumption of the production of South Sudan oil is a model of constructive and positive cooperation, and that the positive achievements in the relations between the two countries during the past weeks had encouraged the appetite of governmental institutions and civil society organs of both countries to initiate contacts with each other.

President Al-Bashir reiterated his commitment to implement all that was agreed upon, and he reiterated his deep wish to reach satisfactory solutions for all pending issues, in the same constructive spirit that takes into account the interests of the two countries and peoples.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

I am very happy to be visiting Juba, which has a special place in my heart and in the sentiments of every Sudanese person. I am accompanied by a high-level delegation of officials and ministers in the Government of the Sudan and representatives of certain civil society organizations, reflecting the strength of the political and domestic desire to open a new page in the relationship between two countries that are united not only by proximity, but also by the deep and firmly entrenched ties of shared history, culture and geography, in addition to boundless interests.

The positive atmosphere and the opportunity that was created by the conclusion of the cooperation agreement implementation matrix that was signed by our two countries on 27 September 2012 paved the way for this visit, which we believe signals the beginning of constructive cooperation in normalizing relations between our countries and developing them towards integration and the strategic partnership for which we all hope.

Extremely encouraging progress has been made since the matrix was concluded, giving us grounds for optimism. If we take real action together, with the cooperation of our friends and the international community, we can achieve all articles of the matrix, in accordance with the schedule set out therein. Security arrangements are being made with joint determination and sincerity, and we trust that security and stability in the two countries will be of mutual interest and that each side will assist the other in achieving them, given that they represent the heart of our concern for regional security and stability in our mother continent of Africa.

The resumption of oil extraction may be considered a model of constructive joint cooperation. Agreement and understanding was reached at both the political and technical levels over all the arrangements necessary to ensure that life would flow into the veins of the economies of both countries and both peoples would benefit. The financial aspect of the oil agreement was concluded at meetings between the central banks of our countries and paved the way for the work of the joint ministerial committee on trade.

The positive achievements that have been realized in the course of the relationship between the two countries in recent weeks have given all Government institutions and civil society organizations a taste for contact and communication. I think that in the next few days after this successful visit, there will, God willing, be a wide range of movement and activity in all fields of cooperation between the two countries. The recent visit to Khartoum by a delegation from the South Sudan Trade Union and South Sudan Parliament is just the beginning of this momentum. That visit was, fortunately, given very favourable coverage by the media of both countries, which are independent of the Government in both cases.

I would like to reiterate that this successful visit will have an impact on the development of relations between our countries, and I would like, here, to advise all the State apparatus and political institutions in the Sudan and urge all civil society organizations to be open to their brothers and colleagues in South Sudan, in order to

make the cooperation that was written into our agreements a reality that will have a positive impact on the lives and standards of living of our peoples.

I should also like to stress once again that we are fully committed to the implementation of all that we have agreed and have a profound desire to achieve satisfactory conclusions to all the remaining issues, in the same constructive spirit that takes into account the interests of the two countries and peoples.

With regard to the Abyei region, we underline the importance of implementing together all articles of the Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, and of establishing a regional council and administration and a police force, in order to assist in upholding security in the region, providing basic services and facilitating the return of displaced persons. That will create a healthy atmosphere that will assist the presidents of the two countries in reaching mutual understanding on the final settlement of the Abyei issue.

Border issues, as we all know, are in every part of the world at the forefront of concerns with regard to bilateral and international relations. Fortunately, the borders between our two countries are well populated and rich in economic and social activity. We are therefore eager to resolve all border disputes wisely and peacefully, and in accordance with international principles and norms. We should also like to reiterate our determination to make those borders elastic and to manage them jointly, with the aim of achieving integration and linkages through common projects for which we shall make every endeavour to provide funding. With that understanding, we hope that we will work together to implement the border delineation agreement, as one of the cooperation agreements, and complete efforts, with the African experts, relating to the five disputed areas.

I hope to see you soon in Sudan, which is your country, so that we may continue the process of genuinely cooperating together in order to achieve our aspirations, and serve as an African, or indeed, global, model for States that are emerging from conflict and turning towards construction and development, and make a positive contribution to human civilization, of which we were once pioneers.